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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--2 SEPTEMBER 1963

1. SUMMARY:

IN A GENERALLY QUIET WEEKEND, SOUTH VIETNAM SHOWED SIGNS OF EDGING SLOWLY BACK TO AT LEAST SURFACE NORMALCY.

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THE UN

SURVEY TEAM WITH INDONESIAN AND PHILIPPINE OBSERVERS ABOARD BEGAN THE SECOND AND FINAL WEEK OF ITS OPINION SAMPLING IN NORTHERN BORNEO.

2. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. THERE WERE ADDITIONAL SIGNS OVER THE WEEKEND THAT SAIGON IS EDGING SLOWLY BACK TOWARD AT LEAST SURFACE NORMALCY.

B. THE CURFEW WAS CUT BACK TO FOUR HOURS FOR MUCH OF THE CITY, THE PAGODAS WERE REOPENED, AND ALL STUDENTS WHO WERE ARRESTED A WEEK AGO WERE RELEASED.

C. US OFFICIALS IN HUE REPORT THAT CITY APPEARS NORMAL EXCEPT FOR THE STILL OBVIOUS PRESENCE OF THE MILITARY. THE POPULATION GENERALLY IS BITTER TOWARD THE REGIME, BUT COWED. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY.

D. [REDACTED] THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ARE ORGANIZING A SERIES OF STUDY SESSIONS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND OTHERS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS ON THEM THE

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WISDOM AND RATIONALE OF THE REGIME'S ACTIONS.

E. MEANTIME, VIET CONG MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL.

F. SAIGON IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT VIETNAM WILL CONTINUE NORMAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA UNLESS SOME FURTHER SIHANOUK MOVE, LIKE THE RECOGNITION OF HANOI, FORCES A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE.

[REDACTED]

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3. IRAQ:

A. THE IRAQI REGIME LAST WEEK DISMISSED [REDACTED] ARMY OFFICERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL OF HIGH RANK.

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B. WE ARE INCLINED TO CONNECT THIS ACTION WITH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MANEUVERING BY PRO-NASIR NATIONALIST GROUPS AGAINST THE IRAQI BAATHISTS. ALL OF THE DISMISSED OFFICERS WERE REPORTEDLY ANTI-BAATH NATIONALISTS.

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[REDACTED]

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4. HAITI:

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A. [REDACTED] DU-VALIER'S STRONG-ARM BOYS PLAN TO PROVOKE DISORDERS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

B. THE OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE, [REDACTED]  
IS TO SMOKE OUT OPPOSITIONISTS, BUT [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] A MORE LIKELY REASON IS TO PERSUADE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN  
TO MAKE LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS TO DUVALIER'S "DEFENSE FUND."

C. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS FUND IS TO PAY FOR THE  
ARMS WHICH DUVALIER AGENTS ARE ENDEAVORING TO BUY [REDACTED]

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5. MALAYSIA:

A. WITH INDONESIAN AND PHILIPPINE OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE  
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE UN SURVEY TEAM HAS BEEN ADVISED BY THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CANCEL TODAY'S VISIT TO THE SOUTHWESTERN  
PART OF SARAWAK FOR FEAR OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

B. US OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT REPORT THAT THE UN TEAM,  
AFTER A FIRST WEEK OF OPINION SAMPLING, IS APPARENTLY SATIS-  
FIED THAT MALAYSIA WAS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE RECENT SARAWAK  
ELECTIONS.

C. THIS POINTS TO A REPORT FAVORABLE TO MALAYSIA UNLESS  
TEAM MEMBERS CHANGE THEIR MINDS BEFORE THEY LEAVE AT THE END  
OF THE WEEK.

6. NOTES:

A. CUBA/MILITARY: THE CUBAN AIR FORCE HAS MOVED A NUM-  
BER OF HELICOPTERS TO OPERATIONAL BASES AND APPARENTLY IN-  
TENDS TO USE SOME OF THEM IN ANTI-INSURGENT OPERATIONS IN THE  
MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL CUBA AND ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST.

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C. FRANCE-VIETNAM: AN OFFICIAL AT THE FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE DOUBTS THAT THE OLYMPIAN DE GAULLE STATEMENT ON VIETNAM PORTENDS ANY SENSATIONAL NEW DEPARTURE IN FRENCH POLICY. HE CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE CANNOT PRETEND ALWAYS TO KNOW JUST WHAT DE GAULLE MAY HAVE IN MIND. AMBASSADOR LYON SEES NO ADVANTAGE TO FRANCE IN ITS BECOMING MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED JUST NOW IN THE COMPLEX VIETNAM ISSUE.

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